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**INDIAN VILLAGE SITES, ETC., IN VICTORIA
COUNTY AND VICINITY RECORDED SINCE
1912**

BY COL. GEORGE E. LAIDLAW



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INDIAN VILLAGE SITES

BY

COL. GEO. E. LAIDLAW

SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN



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Since 1912 the writer has been gathering notes and information on village sites, etc., which form the basis of this paper. Some notes earlier than this date, but which have not appeared before, are also incorporated. The writer has been very particular in recording these sites, etc., and when not able to visit any of the following places, has had the information verified from secondary sources when possible. The Museum mentioned in this paper is the Provincial Museum, Toronto, and the Reports are the Ontario Archaeological Reports issued by the Department of Education, Toronto, Ontario, except where otherwise stated.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RE PREVIOUSLY RECORDED SITES.

(See pp. 62-69. Report 1912.)

Site 23. On north and south halves Lot 12, Con. 1, Fenelon Twp. Mr. William Sinclair, an old resident of Fenelon Twp., near Cambray P.O., who is much interested in Indian relics, informed me on June 16, 1917, that immediately on the east side of this site there were formerly, when the place was first cleared, about two acres of little hillocks (which he called a graveyard) which might have been corn hills. One being dug into at that time produced bones supposed to be human. If these were corn hills it is the first case known to me in this locality.

Site 24. On W. $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 23, Con. 1, Fenelon Twp.. Mr. Donald Peter McKenzie, living on W. $\frac{1}{2}$, lot 22, Con. 1, Fenelon, informs me that this site extends over on to east $\frac{1}{2}$ same lot, owned by Mr. Ernest Rae, and that most of the site is over on the east half, together with some seven or eight graves, of which Mr. McKenzie dug up several. They contained nothing but bones. One grave contained three skeletons buried in a sitting position and bunched together. One skeleton was very large, the skull being taken by a Dr. Galloway, then of Glenarm P.O., near by, the jawbone fitting around Mr. McKenzie's, he being a man of six feet in height. The graves were about thirty inches deep and were shown by circular hollows. A great deal of pottery, etc., could be obtained by digging into the ashbeds.

Site 25. On east part Lot 21, Con. 1, Fenelon, owned by Alex. McKenzie. This should be corrected to east $\frac{1}{2}$, Lot 22, Con. 1. Ashbeds and relics are found on west and north sides of the lot, being in near vicinity to those on previous site.

Site 26. On west $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 23, Con. 2, Fenelon. Mr. Donald P. McKenzie also informs me that his great-granduncle, John Macdonald, acting as guide to a survey party, saw this earthwork in 1812. It then had on it a breastwork of logs horizontally laid, and was supposed to be of French construction, possibly a trading post, and that a blazed trail came in from the west, crossing over Lots 22 and 23, Con. 1, Fenelon, probably from Lake Simcoe. These blazes were on pine trees and could be seen down to a score of years ago.

The country in the immediate neighbourhood of above three sites is very hilly, of sandy nature.

Site 42. On west $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 2, Con. 3, Fenelon Twp. This is corrected to Lot 1, Con. 3. The ash beds lie most abundantly on both sides of the line fence, which runs north and south and divides Lot 1 into east and west halves, occupied respectively by Mr. Dougald Brown and Mr. Waldon. The place is also known as the Widow Tompkin's place.

The 4th Concession Road is also called the "Cameron Road." I visited the place for the first time May 29, 1917, accompanied by Mr. William Sinclair. Mr. Brown kindly showed me over the site, which was under cultivation at the time, but a portion of the site is still covered with first growth hardwood. The site is on loamy ground suitable for aboriginal cultivation, on north side of a spring which drains a small draw or depression north into McLaren Creek, which flows into Sturgeon Lake, several miles away to the east, and is navigable for canoes and abounds in fish according to their season, suckers, maskinonge, etc. Immediately south of this site is a high ridge which circles through the township and is no doubt one of the ancient beaches of Lake Algonquin. (See Museum Bulletin No. 23, Geological Survey, Ottawa, 1916.)

We picked up a few pieces of pottery, worked bones and teeth, shells, pottery discs, pieces of flint, and a bear-tooth knife.

Site 50. Mr. Joseph Moore, of Powle's Corner P.O., confirms the finding of relics on Strowd's Lot 18, Con. 6, Fenelon, north of his place.

Site 45. Mr. P. J. Wilkinson, Cambray P.O., confirms information furnished by Mr. A. F. Hunter, of Barrie, Ont., and states that two skeletons were found when digging the cellar for the manse. Pottery and flints are found on the banks of McLaren's Creek running through this lot and draining Goose Lake. Information on October 24, 1916.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION *RE* LOCALITIES WHERE RELICS HAVE BEEN FOUND, NOT NECESSARILY VILLAGE SITES.

(See Page 68, Report 1912.)

No. 13. On south-east corner Lot 10, Con. 10, Bexley Twp., Abram Faulkner, owner. I examined this place on 2nd of June, 1917, and found it was a small site on top of hill to the north side of the valley, which is very rocky. The north side of valley runs north-east and south-west. The site faces south-east. Picked up clam shells, pottery fragments, etc. Ash beds not very distinct now owing to cultivation. Plenty of relics of ordinary kinds have been found here for years. A Mr. William Smith, of Coboconk P.O., Bexley Twp., stated that about thirty years ago he plowed up all kinds of

relics on this place. Soil, though suitable for aboriginal cultivation, is very stony. Limestone formation, with lithographic rock as surface stone. There is a spring at foot of hill.

NEW SITES.

No.

57. Mr. W. F. Smitheram informed me, in 1913, that on the north side of the road on his lot there was a small camp site on a knoll. A pipe, pottery, and skinners (celts) were picked up. Lot 23, Con. 6, Fenelon Twp.
58. Mr. William Sinclair informed me, on 29th May, 1917, that there was a small site (village or camp) on a level bank on north side of a spring on his farm, Lot 6, Con. 2, Fenelon Twp., near Cambray P.O. Soil suitable for aboriginal cultivation. He found ashes, pottery, bone awl, clay pipe with human face, carbonized corn, small pot, and a small earthenware dish that had been placed in an inverted position over the shoulder-blade of a deer. The dish was broken. Some stone beads were also found. There were few ash beds. Information also received from Messrs. P. Wilkinson and Frank Webster, Cambray, as to relics being found on the lot.
59. While examining locality around ossuary on W. $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 10, Con. 1, Fenelon, I came upon traces of a small village site on north half of Lot 9, Con. 1, Fenelon, on a point of land projecting west into the basin of Goose Lake. Mr. William Sinclair, of Cambray, who accompanied me, stated that he picked up pottery, etc., here when the land was first plowed up. (See No. 46, p. 64, Report 1912.)
60. Judge F. D. Moore, of Lindsay, Ont., in letters of 20th June, 1913, and 11th November, 1913, states that relics were found on W. $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 8, Con. 6, Ops Twp., Mr. Carlin, owner, and also on Lot 9, directly north. This locality is four miles south of Lindsay and was evidently an old camp site; was near East Cross Creek, flowing into the Scugog River several miles to the west; soil and locality suitable for camping grounds. A brass pipe tomahawk was found here in 1913, (See Report 1913), also several celts.
61. Was informed on 21st July, 1917, by Mrs. A. C. Graham and her son, William Graham, that a village site existed upon the J. A. Thompson farm, present owner Charles Perkins, Lot 9, Con. 9, Laxton Twp.; also on E. $\frac{1}{2}$ of Lot 8, Con. 9, Laxton. There is a road allowance between the two lots. The site is on the south side of Beech lake (a small lake) and furnished pipes, pottery, etc.
62. Mr. Donald Peter McKenzie, S.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ of Lot 22, Con. 1, Fenelon, informed me, on 14th October, 1917, that there is a site on a sandy hill on east part of his lot. Usual relics. A double-bitted celt now in the Museum was obtained from here. On top of the hill there are two pits, one about thirty feet in diameter and the other about twenty feet. The pits are partially filled in, and one is about five feet and the other six feet present depth. The double-bitted celt was given by Mr. McKenzie and is about $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches long.
63. The Lindsay *Post*, August 24th, 1917, prints an item to the effect that a skeleton was found on Mr. Mossom Killaby's farm. This skeleton was found on a sandy hill, arms extended; was of a man about six feet tall, or a little more. Skull and jawbones unusually large, and though in an advanced stage of decay the bones lay in the position that they were in in the dead

body. The opinion generally is that these are the bones of an Indian, for in the past Indian relics have been found in the immediate vicinity of the spot.

A series of inquiries by myself revealed the following facts:

Mr. Alex. Warren, Bobcaygeon, Letter Sept. 4, 1917: "Regarding the ash beds, Mr. Killaby and I noted considerable ash among the sand, but we thought probably it may have been decomposed bones. The sand is the lightest I have ever seen (or the finest, at least). It blows about, and was blown off the skeleton, exposing it. . . . Mr. Killaby's father believes it quite likely that ash beds lie under the shifting sands."

Ditto, Letter of 28th August, 1917: "The item was written by myself from first-hand information, I having been on the ground a day after the discovery."

Ditto, Letter of 1st September, 1917, states that there are undoubtedly ash beds here, authority a Mr. Cole.

Mr. Mossom Killaby informs me, in a letter of 13th September, 1917, that he has found plenty of pipes and pottery, skinning stones (celts), and flints, and also, on another part of his farm, knives (steel), forks and compasses, white man's relics. Another skeleton was washed up on an island near there (i.e., may have been washed out of the bank of the lake). The skeleton referred to was found about fifty rods back from the lake.

Number of lot is Lot 5, Con. 19, Verulam. This strip was formerly "Broken Front," in Harvey Twp., Peterborough Co., as is shown on the maps, but when Pidgeon Lake was made the boundary this strip was made over to Verulam Twp.

NEW LOCALITIES WHERE RELICS HAVE BEEN FOUND, NOT NECESSARILY VILLAGE SITES.

No.

17. Relics have been found at Samuel McCaughey's, Lot 13, Con. 1, Digby Twp., Victoria Co. Informed by Andrew Gilmore, 1912.
18. Relics have been found on Miss May Potts' farm, B.S.W. pt., Lot 25, Con. 8, Fenelon Twp., 2 miles south of Rosedale P.O., on Rosedale Road. Informed by James Daniels, Fenelon Falls, 24th January, 1912. Rosedale is on the outlet of Balsam Lake.
19. Pottery has been found in Peter Perdue's bush, south from Rosedale, on Rosedale Road, part of Lot 28, Con. 7, and Lot 28, Con. 8, Fenelon Twp. Informed by James Daniels, 29th January, 1912.
20. Relics have been found at the Duncan Tolmie farm, W. $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 24, Con. 4, Fenelon Twp. 18, 19, 20, 23 and 24 are on the land between Balsam and Cameron Lakes.
21. Relics have been found at Peter Trottier's, Lot 37, N.W.B., Bexley Twp., and Jacob Bartley's, Lot 36, N.W.B., Bexley, fronting on North Bay, Balsam Lake. Relics include pottery, celts, clay pipes, and a mealing stone. (See Report 1896.) Informant, John Bartley, Nov. 30, 1913, and Nov., 1917.
22. The *Watchman-Warder*, of Lindsay, Ont., issue of 6th November, 1913, reports arrow-heads found on John Curtin's place, E. $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 15, Con. 5, Ops Twp., near Lindsay. Mr. Curtin, in letter of 10th December, 1913, says: "Relics

have been found on adjoining places, but nothing to indicate the existence of a village site. A small square, fenced in, in the woods on the next farm was always called the 'Indian Grave.' The writer has noticed these modern Indian fenced-in graves in other places, especially at Heron's Island, Mud Lake, Carden Twp., Victoria Co." (See Report 1898.) Mr. Curtin's locality is known as Brickville. No post-office.

23. Mr. David Brokenshire had a collection of relics found on his farm, E. $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 24, Con. 7, Fenelon Twp. (on a bay in south-west corner of Cameron Lake), but the collection was burnt two years previous. Information from J. J. Lee, Fenelon Falls, 1913.
24. Mr. James Daniels informed me, 24th January, 1912, that on his brothers' places, Lots 28 and 29, Con. 7, Fenelon Twp., a great many relics were found some years ago: pottery, pipes—both clay and stone, etc.
25. Relics have been found on W. $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 1, Con. 10, Thorah Twp., Ontario Co., Mr. Chas. Youill's farm, notably three large gorgets. (See Reports 1896-1898.)
26. Pottery and other relics have been found on Lots 6 and 7, Con. 11, Eldon Twp., Now owned by William Weldon, formerly owned by Neil Murchison and John Kinnear. This place is about two miles south of Glenarm P.O. and has a creek flowing through it. Information received from Mr. Robert Lytle, Victoria Road, and Angus Murchison and Matthew Kinnear, sons of former owners, 1916 and 1917.
27. Mr. G. R. B. Coates, Cambray P.O., Lot 9, Con. 1, Fenelon Twp., has found arrow-heads, flints, celts, and a handsome Huronian slate semi-lunar knife, (now in the Museum), on his farm. Information received 1916 and 1917. (See p. 68, No. 12, Report 1912.)
28. Mr. G. G. Vanstone, on Lot 2, Con. 11, Eldon Twp., which is immediately west of Clark's site, No. 23, Lot 12, Con. 1, Fenelon, has found stone discs, bone awls, pottery, Huronian slate acorn pipe (very small), a steatite effigy pipe (Report 1916, p. 64), and a Huronian slate banner stone, of the reel type. The first noticed in this section by the writer. This spot may be an off-shoot of site 23. Information in 1916.
29. On 11th September, 1916, Mr. Ben Corson, Lot 4, Con. 4, Bexley, reports finding of pottery sherds, celts (skimmers), bone awls and clay pipes, in corner of lot east of road and south of railway track.
30. Frank Webster, Lot 1, Con. 1, Fenelon Twp., has found "arrow points and skinning stones (celts) smooth at the edged end, and with poll not so nicely finished." (See letter, 24th September, 1916.)
31. Two single graves were found a number of years ago on W. Newson's, W. $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 7, Con. 2, Fenelon Twp.
32. Relics have been found on Neil Sinclair's farm, Lot 25, Con. 2, Fenelon Twp. Verified by N. Sinclair, Jr., 1917.
33. A clay pipe, belt pattern, now in the Museum, was found on Lot 23, Con. 1, Verulam Twp., one-half mile east of Fenelon Falls, by Whitney Jones, occupant, 1917. This type seems to be common to this locality.
34. Relics have been found on A. McNabb's farm, Lot 15, Con. 8, Eldon Twp., notably a reduced trade axe. Verified by Neil McNabb.
35. Mr. Neil McNabb, an elderly retired farmer, owner of Lot 20, Con. 9, Eldon Twp., informs me, 2nd February, 1917, that when his father settled and

cleared this lot they plowed up a flint-lock gun, iron tomahawks with French trademark on them, "skimmers" or celts, and also dug up a large scalping or butcher knife when planting trees; also on E. $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 21, Con. 8, Eldon, when trenching against fire, they trenched through a large bed of ashes and charcoal. This was immediately west of Site 21, on Lot 21, Con. 9, Donald Frazer, then owner.

36. Relics have been found on Malcolm Macdonald's farm, E. $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 16, Con. 8, Eldon Twp., especially iron tomahawks, on the banks of a stream flowing easterly into West Bay, Balsam Lake. Information from Neil McNabb, 2nd February, 1917.
Mr. Sam Truman, on 2nd July, 1917, informs me that skeletons were found in west bank of creek, and relics were found on the farm.
37. On the Neil Brown farm, Lot 19, Con 9, Eldon Twp., skimmers (celts), iron tomahawks and steel knives have been found. Information from Dougal Brown, 29th May, 1917, verified by Neil McNabb, 13th June, 1917.
38. On Charles Everson's, Lot 25, Con. 4, Fenelon Twp., "crinkly" clay pipes, skimmers and "kidney" stones (i.e., rubbing or smoothing stones) have been found. Information from C. A. Everson, 2nd February, 1917. This site is also on that portion of Fenelon Twp. between Balsam and Cameron Lakes.
39. Judge F. D. Moore, Lindsay, reports a grooved stone hammer from N. $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 5, Con. 2, Emily Twp., Victoria Co., found forty years ago. Letter, February 2nd, 1917. Grooved relics are very rare in this section, three in number being the total on record.
40. Celts or skinning stones have been found on W. J. Alton's, Lot 4, N.P.R. Bexley, immediately west of Site 1, on Lots 1 and 2, N.P.R. Informed by W. J. Alton, 1917.
41. An Indian pipe was found by W. J. Alton on John Alton's, Lot 3, Con. 7, Carden Twp.
42. An Indian pipe (clay), belt pattern, was found on Lot 9, Con. 6, Bexley, some years ago, by Robert Ferguson, owner. Information on 2nd June, 1917. Pipe now in Museum.
43. Iron tomahawk was found on W. Forman's, W. $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 15, Con. 8, Eldon. Presented to Museum by Samuel Truman, of Kirkfield P.O., 2nd July, 1917.
44. A skeleton was found under a large maple tree a good many years ago, on Donald McArthur's, E. $\frac{1}{2}$ of Lot 20, Con. 8, Eldon Twp. Information imparted to Mr. S. Truman by the late Mr. John Sanderson, of Kirkfield, and retold by Mr. Truman, 2nd July, 1917.
(Note by G. E. L.—Nos. 33 to 36, 43 and 44, together with Site 21, Report 1912, are in a section of Eldon called, locally, "Palestine," and all have furnished traces showing contact with white men.)
45. Was informed by Mr. Sam Truman, on 5th July, 1917, that relics have been found on the Manning farm, Lot 2, Con. 10, Eldon Twp., south of Hartley P.O., on N.W. side of Goose Lake.
46. Was informed by W. Graham, Victoria Road P.O., on 21st July, 1917, that pottery fragments and celts have been found on their farm, W. $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 26, Con. 1, Fenelon. Mr. A. C. Graham, the owner, stated that a number of years ago a large stone effigy bird pipe, resembling a crow, was found in this vicinity.

47. Skulls were found on John Knight's farm, Lot 25, Con. 4, Fenelon Twp., previous to 1900. (This farm is on South Bay, Balsam Lake, between Balsam and Cameron Lakes.)
48. Was informed by P. Nesbit, Victoria Road, December, 1917, that he had picked up relics on the D. McIntyre farm, Lot 10, Con. 3, Eldon, namely an arrowhead and a smoothing stone or pestle.

SITES NEAR BEAVERTON, ONTARIO COUNTY.

No.

1. G. Proctor, of Beaverton, in letter of February 19, 1902, mentions site on Alex. Hamilton's farm, west of Beaverton. Pottery and other relics were found. Lot 15, Con. 6, Thorah Twp., Ontario Co. A. F. Hunter, of Barrie (letter of 11th February, 1908), mentions site at Hamilton's, near this town.
2. G. Proctor, in letter of February 19th, 1902, mentions that relics were found at Ethel Park, west of Beaverton, on Lake Simcoe shore, and in vicinity of the Beaver River and the Talbot River, the latter flowing through Gambridge, several miles north of Beaverton; also that there was a burial ground at the mouth of the Talbot, but that the Indians had removed the remains to Rama Reserve some years ago.
3. Alex. Morrison, late of Beaverton, now of British Columbia, a collector of Indian relics, in a letter of 10th January, 1914, mentions that nearly all his finds were surface finds near Beaverton, within five or six miles of the mouth of the Beaver River; a few were dug up. His turtle amulet came from Lot 4, Con. 9, Thorah, and was a surface find. This turtle amulet was similar to a bird stone, only in form of a turtle, and of yellowish mottled stone.
4. Mr. A. C. Graham, P.M., Victoria Road, Ont., 18th August, 1915, stated that on the W. $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 8, Con. 5, Thorah Twp., all sorts of relics were found. The spot was level, sandy ground, good for corn; had a large spring; was three miles east of Lake Simcoe.
5. Mrs. B. Corson, Corson's Siding P.O., reports all sorts of relics were found on her father's farm (the Smith farm), Lot 10, Con. 7, Thorah. two miles north of Beaverton. Site was on a hill. This lot was first owned by a William Scott.

WORKSHOPS.

No.

1. In 1914 I discovered a flint workshop site on Lot 5, S.P.R., Bexley, on flat rock bank, near Grass River, on south side, the intervening space being a beaver meadow. Several quartz scrapers and a number of chert, quartz (both milky, glassy, and rose), etc., chips have been picked up at different times. The place now is occupied by cattle pens.
2. In 1914 another small workshop site was located by the writer on bank of lake shore, West Bay, Balsam Lake. Block C, Bexley Twp., near Trent canal entrance. Hammer stones and chips of various materials were picked up. In immediate vicinity chert formations in the flat limestone rock have been noticed.

3. Judge F. D. Moore, of Lindsay, Ont., in letter, 2nd September, 1914, reports: "Workshops on west and south shores of Bobcaygeon Island, near the boundary of Victoria and Peterborough Counties, and near Bobcaygeon P.O. These were indicated by great quantities of flint chippings, showing that great quantities of arrow points and knife blades, etc., were manufactured there. Many rejects were evident. The flint was got out of the limestone rock of the island. Many nodules of flint are to be seen in this rock."
4. While examining the locality in vicinity of ossuary on W. 1/2 of Lot 10, Con. 1, Fenelon Twp., in company with Mr. William Sinclair, June 16, 1917, he located a small workshop site on S. 1/2 of Lot 9, Con. 1, Mr. G. R. B. Coates, owner, who has picked up arrow heads here. Mr. Sinclair picked up flints and chips.

OSSUARIES.

No.

1. In 1912 I was informed by the Rev. W. J. Creighton, then of Bobcaygeon, now of Bradford, that an ossuary or "bone pit" was formerly opened on Mr. Robert Campbell Devitt's place. On enquiry, Mr. R. C. Devitt, in letters of October 16 and October 29, 1912, stated that his father had told them that this ossuary contained from forty to sixty skulls and a few iron tomahawks, beads, and cooking vessels of red clay. The skulls were very large and the jaws enormous. The ossuary was on Lot 28, Con. 8, Verulam Twp., Victoria Co. It was just filled in; had no mound. A supposed battle was fought here. The ossuary was opened about fifty years previous.
2. Goose Lake ossuary. This ossuary is on W. 1/2 of Lot 10, Con. 1, Fenelon Twp., Thos. Douglass owner. This ossuary was opened about 1870-80, by the late Dr. Hart, of Cannington, the late A. B. Coates, of Cambray, then owner of lot, and his son, G. R. B. Coates, now living on an adjacent farm. The ossuary was circular and about ten feet in diameter. A large number of skeletons were found at a depth of about eighteen inches or two feet; estimated to be about fifty or sixty (?) in number, consisting of adults and children. Dr. Hart took some of the bones away. Several times after the first opening other parties have dug into it. The ossuary is on top of a sandy hill or very high bank on east side of Goose Lake basin, about one-half mile south of Clark's site, No. 23, on Lot 12, Con. 1, Fenelon Twp., and about one-quarter mile distant from Goose Lake, which is a marshy pond in a cedar and tamarack swamp. In immediate vicinity of ossuary some flints, celts and arrow-heads have been picked up, also a semi-lunar slate knife.

On October 24, 1916, I visited the place in company of Mr. P. J. Wilkinson, of Cambray P.O., and Mr. G. R. B. Coates, who located the ossuary from memory. We put down a pit five feet by three feet, and at a depth of one foot came across some bones; from that to about five feet deep the bones became more numerous, and at that depth we came across bundles of bones and crushed skulls, which were evidently not disturbed since they were first placed there. After taking a quantity of these for specimens and to be examined by competent authority, the pit was filled up, leaving a quantity of bones *in situ* for future examination. It is a noteworthy fact that there were no artifacts of any sort with these skeletal remains, even at the first opening, or charcoal or ashes. This ossuary probably belonged to the site at Clark's and was one of the ordinary sort.

This ossuary is the "Surprise pit" noted in Report 1912, p. 64, No. 46.

LEGEND OF OSSUARY.

An Indian called Goose told this story to the late Amos Coates about seventy-five years ago. When he told this story to Coates, Goose was an old man, and he said the battle took place when he was a child. According to the story, the Mississaugas, coming from the south, met the Mohawks coming from the north (of this locality). The Mississaugas trapped the Mohawks in the valley of Goose Lake and won the fight. The dead Mohawks were buried in the "pit." Apparently none of the Mississaugas were killed, as nothing was said about the disposal of their bodies.

I paid a second visit to this "bone pit" on June 16th, 1917, accompanied by Mr. P. J. Wilkinson and Mr. William Sinclair, the latter gentleman being much interested in Indian relics. We excavated south and east of previous excavation and found quantities of undisturbed bones, both in bundles and in an indiscriminate mass. We took out some fifteen skulls, of which we were able to send nine to the Museum, the rest being in fragments. They were all adult skulls, some having the teeth pretty well worn down. We saw no small skulls. Only one skull was perfect, the rest having the facial bones rotted away more or less. We left some bones *in situ* to south and east sides of excavation. The greatest depth of ossuary was five feet six inches. One of the femurs was nineteen inches long; this would indicate an adult six feet four inches in height. See Gray's Anatomy: a femur = $\frac{1}{4}$ height of adult.

3. On June 2, 1917, I was informed by Robert Ferguson, Lot 9, Con. 6, Bexley Twp., that about twenty-five or thirty years ago a "bone pit" was discovered and opened about two miles south-west of Janetville, Manvers Twp., Durham Co., on the Thos. Syers farm, Lot 3, Con. 11, Manvers. The pit was about eighteen feet in diameter and five feet deep, was saucer-shaped, and was about one-half mile from Perch Creek, on level, loamy soil. No relics, charcoal or ashes were with the bones. Was estimated to hold several hundred skeletons. Doctors came here from several places and took skulls away. The skulls seemed to be fairly recent and entire. There is a battle legend connected with the ossuary. Relics were found on near-by hills, including an earthen pot. I instituted a series of enquiries about this "bone pit," with the following results:

Mr. W. J. Wintemberg, archaeologist of the Geol. Survey, Ottawa, letter of 9th June, 1917, informs me that this ossuary was examined by the late Prof. David Boyle, Prov. Mus., Toronto. See pp. 41, 42, Report 1894-95.

Mr. John R. Burn, of Janetville, Ont., letter June 6, 1917, quotes: "There was a cave of bones on Mr. Syers', Lot 3, Con. 11, Manvers. I have been at it myself thirty-five years ago. I know there were lots of bones, but never heard of any relics being found or any legend connected with it."

Mr. Thos. Syers, Janetville, letter of June 11, 1917, says: "I will give a few items as well as I can remember. The pit was about ten or twelve feet in diameter, and four or five feet deep. There were no relics of any kind found amongst the bones. There was a camping ground on next lot east, Lot 2, Con. 11, where pieces of pottery, pipe-heads, flint arrow-heads and many bone relics were found. I have not heard of any account from Indians concerning this cave. The cave was dug over some time after being found, by a man from Toronto [David Boyle (?)] . . . I had

quite a collection of relics found in this vicinity; among them was a white flint spear-head about eight inches long, which was found in Cavan Twp. I also had a copper spear-head about six inches long, found on my farm. . . . It must be nearly fifty years ago since I discovered the pit."

Ditto, letter of June 25, 1917: "I might mention seeing the remains of earthworks on the concession line about thirty rods north of where the pit was . . . before the road allowance was fully cleared."

Ditto, July 10, 1917: "The remains of earthworks that I saw were just north of the bone pit. It was on the road allowance, Lot 3, Con. 12. It would not be any more than one foot high, as well as I can remember, and there was only a short piece in evidence. I do not know if there is anything remaining of it now; it never was very clearly defined, to my recollection."

4. In enquiring about the Thos. Syers ossuary, I was led to enquire about this one, too, which was brought to my notice. See pp. 41, 42, Report 1894-95. This ossuary is on Lot 18, Con. 8, Manvers, about five miles east of Syers', owned by R. Fallis.

Mr. J. J. Preston, M.P.P., Bethany, Ont., was communicated with and kindly had the data of the ossuary written up by Miss E. J. Preston, a retired school teacher, who was born and lived within one-half mile of the ossuary referred to, and was familiar with the situation fifty years ago.

Mr. Preston, when a boy, remembers his brother and Mr. Sam Hughes (now Sir Sam Hughes) excavating for skeletons here (1871). Letter of August 16, 1917.

"Indian Burial Mound (?) on Lot 18, Con. 8, Manvers Twp., Durham Co., Ont." by Miss E. J. Preston.

"Some time in the early forties of the past century, Mr. Thos. Graham was looking in the woods for strayed cattle, and finding his feet sinking in loose soil, climbed on a large tree which had been blown down by the wind. He was astonished to find skulls and human bones embedded among the roots of the tree, and saw that he was above a large pit filled with skeletons. The following day, accompanied by Mr. Peter Preston (uncle of the present M.P.P.), he returned to make further investigation. The mound (?) was on a high hill, with a level plain at its foot, extending to the south. At the time of discovery the land was either government property or owned by Mr. John Craig. At present the owner is Mr. Ernest Fallis. The fallen tree was of great size, proving the skeletons had remained there for a long time. The pit seemed about twenty or more feet deep and about fifteen feet in diameter, and from a rough calculation was thought to contain from eight hundred to a thousand skeletons. No Indians in the vicinity at that time had any knowledge or legend of this mound's existence. An old Indian said that 'these people must have been all of one tribe, as Indians of different tribes do not use the same burial place.' Some of the skeletons were exceedingly well preserved, in many of the skulls not more than one or two teeth being missing from the upper jaw. Many skeletons were of a large size, especially the leg and arm bones. A few bones seemed as if they had been exposed to the action of fire, but except the smaller and softer bones, all were well preserved.

“Why they chose such a high hill, and how they could dig the pit is a mystery, as the soil is hard and gravelly. Many skulls showed the clean-cut mark of the tomahawk, while others seemed as if broken with clubs, none showing bullet holes, proving death had occurred before the Indian had any knowledge of firearms. Quite a large number were pronounced to be the skulls of women, and also many of children. In one instance two little skulls were crushed into each other, evidently causing death.

“All these bodies were likely buried at the same time, as they were tossed in confusedly, not in layers, as would be the case if interred at different periods.

“Very few relics were found here, except some stone hatchets, and a great number of Indian pipes. But on the surrounding farm to the south and west were found great numbers of broken pottery, a few arrow-heads, Indian pipes, tomahawks (some of flint), and a wedge-shaped stone sharpened like a chisel at one end. This latter was supposed to be used for scraping hides, and flesh from the bones. The pottery was ornamented frequently by straight or oblique lines, but curved lines were never used, proving these people had not as yet advanced to using the curve. It seems likely they were the Huron, or Algonquin, tribes, who were being driven north and westward by the Iroquois. They seem not to have advanced beyond the ‘hunter stage,’ as nothing was found pointing to a knowledge of agriculture. No knives (iron) or implements, beads, or anything found which would indicate these people had any knowledge of the white man.

“They may have belonged to the middle or latter part of the ‘stone age.’ The general formation of the skulls, however, seemed to indicate a higher degree of intelligence than one would expect from people of this period.”

General Sir Sam Hughes, being communicated with, kindly replied as follows:

Letter of 6th September, 1917. “I really forget the number of the lot, but it was in the exact locality you named. There were several pits, but we only partly opened up one. It appeared to be a large circular pit, with bodies placed side by side, heads to the wall and feet towards the centre.

“The next inner row had the heads resting in the crotch of the outside body. There was a third row, and, it may be, a fourth, but I think there were only three rows.

“Some persons, I believe, from Toronto, subsequently took up the pit on a more extensive scale, because when I again visited it, years later, there were skulls lying all around. We opened up only one side, and only a very narrow part at that. Some of these skulls seemed to have been broken by instruments, as if in action, tomahawk cuts, crushed-in skulls, etc., which indicated violent death, but the great majority of them had the skulls perfect.

“There were no special relics with the bodies I took out, although there were some tomahawks and arrow-heads towards the centre of the pit, mixed up with the feet of the bodies. I really do not recall much more about it. However, there are still persons living in that locality who can direct you to the spot where these graves then were. There were trees growing on the site of these graves, one of them upwards of two hundred and twenty years old. I cut the tree down and counted the rings, and I believe it was

fully three hundred or four hundred years old, because the whole centre was uncountable.

"These bodies were laid several deep, and the sinking in of the earth was quite pronounced, but it had sunken before the growth of the trees."

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The Lindsay *Post*, of 30th September, 1898, prints the following news item from Fleetwood P.O., Manvers Twp., Durham Co., south of Scugog Lake, which is situated between Victoria and Durham Counties: "Mr. Jas. Morrow, in digging post holes around his garden, came in contact with the remains of a skeleton. Skull, teeth and large bones seemed quite natural and supposed to be Indian. There is an 'Indian pit' not far away, from which there has been quite a lot of skulls taken in the past."

Letters of enquiry revealed the fact that Mr. Jas. Morrow moved out west and died there, so no further details could be got. See letter, Mrs. E. Morrow, Franklin, Ont., 9th May, 1917. The "Indian pit" referred to must be either the ossuary at Thos. Syers', Lot 3, Con. 11, Manvers, or the one at R. Fallis', Lot 18, Con. 8, Manvers. See pp. 41, 42, Report 1894-95.

The *Warder*, Lindsay, of 26th April, 1906, prints the following item: "In excavating for the new Y.M.C.A. Building in Orillia, the workmen disinterred a large number of Indian remains (14 skulls). These remains were to form the nucleus of the Y.M.C.A. museum, which action is objected to by the Indians of Rama, Georgina Island, and other Chippewa bands. Land from which these human remains were taken formed part of the burial ground in connection with the Indian Council House, that once occupied the site of the present St. James' Church.

"Under Section 206 of the Criminal Code, 1895, the Indians object to removal of the bones for museum purposes. Chief Pawdosh, Georgina Island, was laying claims before the proper authorities."

The *Evening Post*, Lindsay, 23rd December, 1913, prints as follows: "Dan Whetung, Jr., Chemong Indian village, found on shores of Chemong Lake an Indian clay pipe (war-whoop style), with mouth for bowl, also found stem of a pipe at Buckhorn Lake."

Chas. Heron, of North Verulam Twp., Victoria Co., while plowing, unearthed Indian skull, tomahawk and beads. News item, Bobcaygeon *Independent*, 13th May, 1915; Lindsay *Post*, 14th May, 1915; *Watchman-Warder*, 13th May, 1915.

Mr. Pogue, North Verulam, unearthed perfect skeleton of full-grown Indian male, while excavating for barn foundation, six miles from Fenelon Falls. Lindsay *Post*, 15th October, 1915.

Mr. Hedley Feir, of Haliburton P.O., inquired amongst the oldest settlers *re* Indian remains, and they say that there are no graveyards nor signs of any settlements made in that vicinity, barring one or two families who have lived here.

DEER FENCE.

When the Cambray section was first cleared, the old settlers said that there was a "deer fence" through Fenelon Twp. from Goose Lake south-easterly to Sturgeon Lake, a distance of about seven miles. This was a "slash" fence made by cutting brush and piling it in the direction necessary, also by "falling" trees upon the "slash" fence to augment it. I could not learn if "woven" brush was used. "Gaps" were left. The deer were driven against the fence and ran along it until they came to the "gaps," and were there killed by men waiting for them. Informed by G. R. B. Coates, October 24, 1916.

Mr. H. Angle, Midland Railway Agent, Victoria Road, imparts the information, June, 1917, that when enlarging the Midland Railway station at Allandale, Ont., when excavating the cellar a number of skeletons were found, about twenty years ago, supposed to be Indians.

TREATY ROCK.

Judge F. D. Moore, of Lindsay, in letter of 26th January, 1917, says: "Just across Sturgeon Lake from the lower wharf at Sturgeon Point, there is an unusually large and round-shaped granite boulder. Not many years ago it was high up on the lake bank beyond high water. It was a very conspicuous object. Of late years the waves have undermined the bank and that boulder has fallen into the water. . . . It is now known as the 'Treaty Rock,' and the story goes that it was there the rival tribes from east and west used to meet, shake hands, make treaties, exchange wampum belts, etc."

MOUND AT CLEAR LAKE.

Judge F. D. Moore, of Lindsay, in letter of 13th September, 1917, says: "I was shown a mound by Mr. Thos. Rubidge, a surveyor or engineer employed on the Trent Valley canal. This mound was about thirty or thirty-five feet long, about four feet high, and five or six feet wide at the bottom. Mr. Rubidge had cut a section about a foot or so wide across the centre of this mound, and by that it could be clearly seen that it was artificial. There were no distinct signs of bones found in it, but there was a strong indication that there had been bones in it at one time, but that they had so decayed as to have the appearance of slaked lime. This mound was, I understand, flooded over by the raising of the dam at Young's Point, after I saw it. It was on the west side of Clear Lake (at the foot of Stony Lake), on Lot 44, Con. 15, Smith Twp., Peterborough Co."

Ditto, letter 4th October, 1917: "I made a personal examination, along with Mr. Rubidge, of the mound shortly after he had found it, and cut a cut or cross section across the centre of it, and had got the positive evidence of what it was. I think it is the farthest north of any mound yet found in this part of Ontario."

Ditto, letter 10th October, 1917: "It must be twenty years ago since the place was flooded. . . . Mr. Rubidge took me to see the mound a few days after he had dug a narrow trench across it about the centre, and the evidence he got left no doubt in his or my mind but that it was artificial. At the first view one could not be inclined to notice it. It was on level ground in a dry cedar wood, about halfway between a low ridge of rock and the bank of Clear Lake, at the foot of Stony Lake, on the lot I mentioned . . . and close to the north

boundary (Smith Twp.). The first thing found by Mr. Rubidge when digging the trench was a flat piece of limestone about ten inches wide, twelve or fifteen long, and two inches thick, with a jagged edge at one end. He got this stone within a few inches of the top of the mound. . . . He got the other half of this stone about three feet below the surface at the bottom of the mound, which also had a jagged end which fitted exactly into the jagged edge of the upper stone. The two parts were about the same size, and corresponded so exactly as to leave no doubt but that at one time they were one stone. Mr. Rubidge got no other stones or relics. Material of mound looked like "loam" filled with slaked lime, which I took to be the remains of bones—not whole bones, but bones that had been mixed. This may have been burnt or decayed clam shells . . . but I have no manner of doubt but that long heap of earth was a prehistoric mound built by human hands.

"It is not known if any more digging was done on this mound; probably not, as Mr. Rubidge did not intend to do so, or to permit anybody else to do so. There would be very little chance of finding the mound now, on account of the raising of the water."

[It is to be regretted that this mound was not further examined, for it might have been found to have been a ridge caused by ice "shoving," as in cases known on other lakes in this section. The "slaked" lime might have been marl.—Note by G. E. L.]

Mr. W. H. Johnston, of Pefferlaw, Ont., has a fine collection of Indian relics picked up mostly on the farm he was raised on, Lot 23, Con. 5, Georgina Twp., Ontario Co., and on other farms in the neighbourhood; also along the Black River, which flows into Lake Simcoe from the east. He is of the opinion that this river seemed to have been a canoe route between Lakes Scugog and Simcoe. Information on 15th August, 1915, and 29th October, 1917.

NOTES BY G. E. LAIDLAW.

The long winters that prevail in Canada have, no doubt, a tendency to make the ash beds on these sites larger and deeper than in other southern localities.

One reason, probably, for the prevalence of bone artifacts in this and other northern regions is the ease and frequency with which they can be made, and the difficulty of getting raw stone material for points, knives, celts, etc., in the winter, on account of deep snow hiding the ledges and deposits, and of hard frosts making the working of these extremely difficult for aboriginal methods.

Earthworks, ash beds, ossuaries, and even graves, are frequently called "mounds" by the ordinary people in this section.

There is no regular distinctive type of stone axe, or celt, or gouge found here. The specimens found are a mixed lot of various types.

Sites 23, Lot 12, Con. 1, Fenelon Twp., and 42, Lot 1, Con. 3, Fenelon Twp. and vicinity thereof, have produced a few ceremonial relics, a grooved axe, and several different types of stone pipes, notably a rhomboidal or square-sectioned type, which tapers to a small base or a wedge-shaped base, sometimes being oblong

cross-sectioned, and having the edges nicked as if for tally purposes, which might proclaim that these two sites were tinged with Huron or neutral influence, though the pottery and other relics are the same as those from other sites in this region.

Goose, the Indian that told the story about the ossuary at Goose Lake, said that there were three big fights between the Mississaugas and the Mohawks in this section. The fights were, one at Goose Lake, one at where Cæsarea now is, on south side of Scugog Lake in Cartwright Twp., Durham Co., and one at Washburn's Island, north side of Scugog Lake, Mariposa Twp., Victoria Co. They fought in water up to their waists at the latter place, and years afterwards the waves washed up the bones on the shore. The fighting originated over the hunting grounds, the Mohawks sending delegates to arrange boundaries between the Mohawks and the Mississaugas, but they could not agree, and fighting became the result, the Mohawks being driven to the east. The remnants of whom are on the Reserve at Deseronto, and the Mississaugas (Ojibwas) are on various Reserves throughout this section—Scugog Island, Chemong, and Rama.

Two maps have been used in locating these sites, etc. The first published by Mr. Tom Kains, P.L.S., and compiled by Jas. E. Patterson, C.E., in 1877, giving the names of the then owners of the individual lots. The second map is published by the Times Printing Company of Peterborough, Ont., 1910. This one does not give names of owners of lots, but gives several additional townships and lately created post-offices, etc.

SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN

BY COL. G. E. LAIDLAW

Two local points of interest relating to Samuel de Champlain's expedition through this section in 1615, when he took a war party of Hurons down this system of waterways, now known as the Kawartha Lakes, and also the Trent Canal System, to fight the Iroquois in what is now New York State, are known as "Champlain's Landing" and "Champlain's Rest."

CHAMPLAIN'S LANDING.

Champlain's Landing is up the Talbot River about a quarter of a mile from its mouth on the south bank, south-west of Gamebridge P.O., the Talbot emptying into Lake Simcoe, flowing west. The number of the lot is 12, Concession 9, Thorah Township, Ontario County, owned by Mrs. Robert Hodgson. The writer was first shown this place by the Messrs. Tisdale, local residents, in 1896. It was on a low bank of the river, surrounded by trees, probably the first available firm ground up the mouth of the river, and was more or less used as a picnic ground. Now two railways run near it, the C.N.R. and the Midland Railway; also the Trent Canal touches upon it. Mr. E. H. Tisdale, of Simcoe Lodge, in the neighbourhood, verifies number of lot. (Letter, 26 January, 1917.)

The following account of Champlain's trip through this section is furnished by Mr. F. H. Dobbin, of Peterborough, and is incorporated in the text of his History of Peterborough.

[In referring to hunting, fishing, vines and walnut trees, those conditions still exist in a more or less degree. The wild grapes growing around the shores of the lakes are very sour. The walnut trees, which are evidently the "butternuts" of the present day, are very plentiful in different localities. The "meadows" he refers to are no doubt the "beaver meadows," formed by the damming up of streams by beavers, which then are filled in by silt and vegetable growth, and finally yield an abundant growth of long, coarse grasses. He may also have meant the semi-dry marshes which existed here and there along this route, but these are nowadays covered with high water, necessary for the utility of the canal.—Note by G. E. L.]

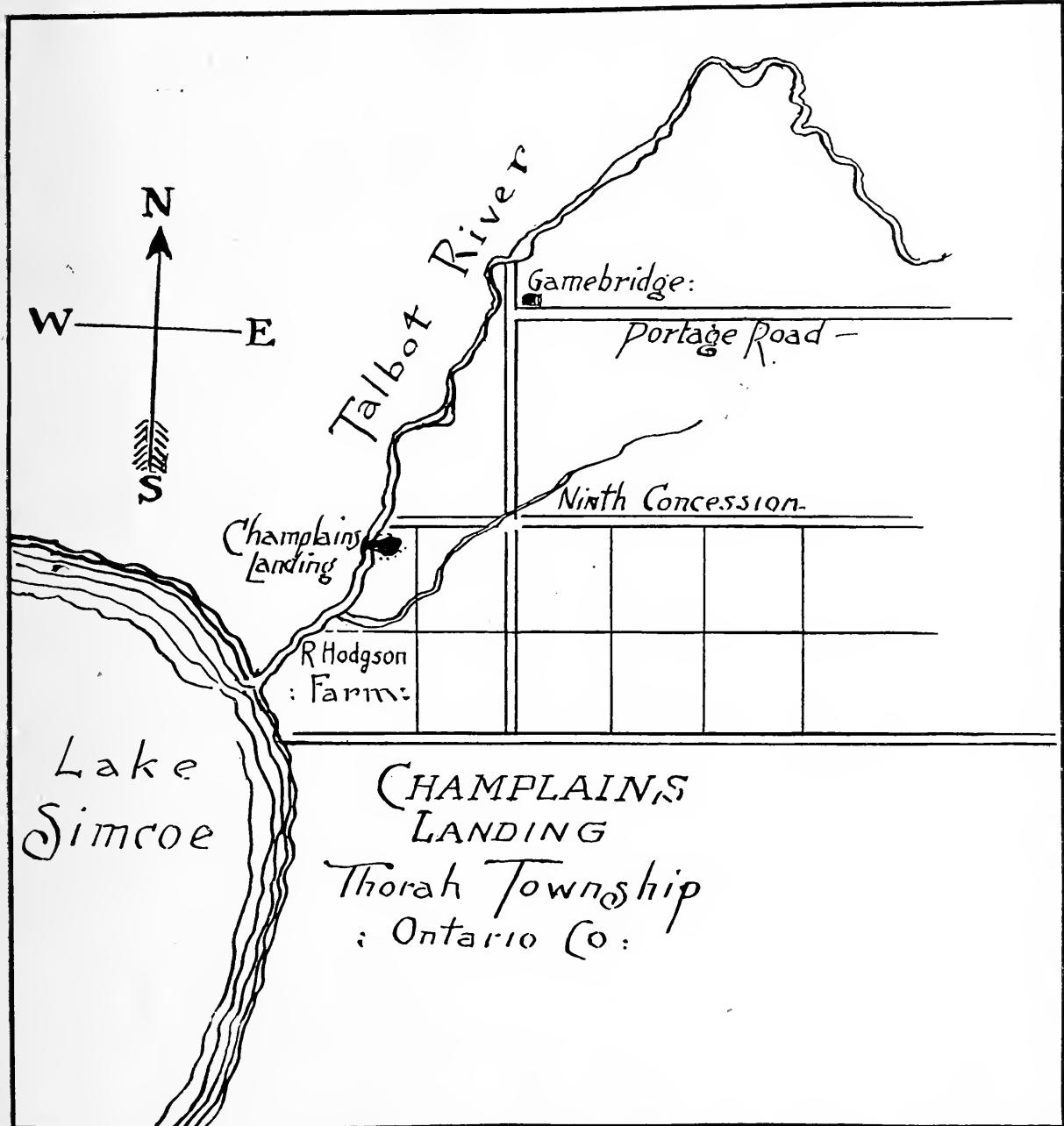
VISIT OF SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN.

It is quite possible that few of those living in Peterborough have read the description given by Samuel de Champlain, the great French explorer, of his trip across the lands between Georgian Bay and Lake Ontario, by way of the lakes and river Otonabee and Trent river. The year was 1615, and the narrative says:

"Champlain was the first white man of whom history speaks, who saw and followed in his canoe the Kawartha Lakes. It was in the year 1615 that he led the Hurons and Algonquins in their unsuccessful foray against the Iroquois. Leaving the village of Cahiaque (not far from Orillia) on the 1st September, he arrived on the shore of Lake Couchiching, three leagues distant. The Narrows was already a famous fishing spot, where fish were taken in nets and winter-cured. From the palisades employed by the fishermen to close up the strait, Lake Simcoe was known

to the French as Lac aux Claires, or Lake of the Fish-Weirs. In the slight openings that were left the nets were placed.

"Brûlé" and twelve stalwart savages in two canoes were despatched from the Narrows, doubtless by way of the Toronto portage and the west end of Lake Ontario, to notify the allied Eries or Carantouanans, who had promised to join the invaders with five hundred men before the Iroquois town.



Champlain continues: "They set out on the eighth of the said month, and on the tenth following there was a hard white frost. We continued on our course towards the enemy, and made some five to six leagues (twelve and a half to fifteen miles) in these lakes. Thence the Indians portaged their canoes about ten leagues (say twenty-four miles) overland and came to another lake, extending six to seven leagues in length and three in width (no doubt Balsam Lake), from which issues a river which empties into the great Lake of the Entonhonorans (*sic*), and, going, we passed five falls (or rapids) by land, some of them four to five leagues in length, and passed through several lakes of considerable extent, as also the said river, which

is very abundant in good fish. Certainly this whole country is very beautiful and agreeable. Along the bank, it seems that the trees were planted for pleasure in most places, also that all these countries were in past time inhabited by Indians, who were afterwards forced to abandon them through fear of their enemies. Vines and walnut trees are there in great abundance. Grapes come to maturity, but there remains always a sharp acidity, which is felt in the throat when eaten in quantity."

From the indications given by Champlain, it seems probable that he proceeded along the east shore of Lake Simcoe to the mouth of Talbot Creek. Laverdiere, however, supposes that he crossed to Sturgeon Lake. But the early explorers very frequently and very naturally over-estimated the length of portages, and the more probable inference is that he followed the trail, which is now the Portage Road, to its terminus at the fort on Balsam Lake. In this view of his description, the rapid he mentions would be that near the mouth of Burnt River.

In his notes to the large map of 1632, Champlain again gives the following concise description of the Trent River system: "This river is very beautiful, and passes through a number of beautiful lakes and meadows, with which it is bordered, many islands of various dimensions abounding in deer and other wild animals, very good fishing spots of excellent fish, and a great deal of very good cleared land, which has been abandoned by the Indians on account of their wars. The river empties into Lake St. Louis (Ontario) and many tribes go to these regions to hunt for their winter supply."

From Champlain's description it is clear that the Trent Valley was then uninhabited, through fear of the Iroquois, but that there were traces of recent occupation by a peaceable and sedentary savage community. The investigations of Mr. Boyle and Mr. Laidlaw have confirmed the explorer's statement. They have discovered unmistakable proofs of occupation by numerous and populous villages of Iroquoian type, antedating European contact.—*Incorporated in text of History of Peterborough, by F. H. Dobbin.*

CHAMPLAIN'S REST.

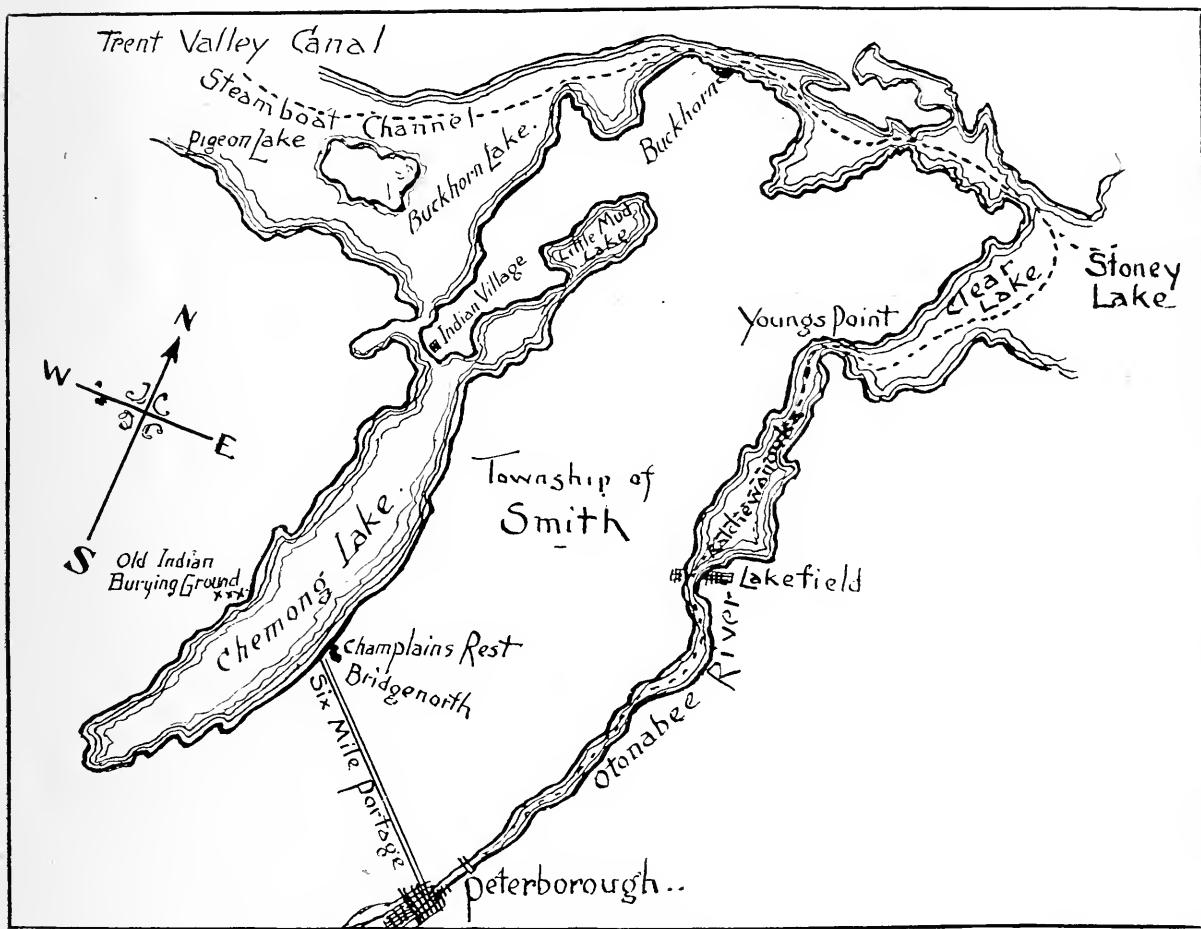
Amongst the usual legends of Champlain, extant in this section, is one that he remained some days on the shores of a lake in this ancient internal water route, now the Trent Canal System, on his return journey from the Iroquois to the Huron country in 1615. This place was called "Champlain's Rest." I entered into correspondence with a number of people in the territory between Beaverton, Ontario County, on Lake Simcoe near the mouth of the Talbot River, and Peterborough, on the Otonabee River, Peterborough County, with the following results: That the place known as Champlain's Rest is located about four hundred yards from the residence of Mr. John N. Telford, J.P., village of Bridgenorth, and is on Lot 12, Concession 7 of the township of Smith, county of Peterborough; or the spot is better known as Lots A 6, 51, 16, 17, 32, on the plan of the village of Bridgenorth, township of Smith, etc.

This place has now a summer cottage on it, and a description of the place before the summer cottage was built is given as follows:

The place which is considered to be "Champlain's Rest" was just a commons forty years ago. A man by the name of Henry Denne bought it for a summer resort. Mr Denne died about eighteen years ago, and a Mr. McComb bought the property and built a cottage on it. Mr. McComb died two years ago and left it

to his son-in-law, Mr. G. Bull, of New York. The spot is a most beautiful place about forty feet above Lake Chemong, formerly called Mud Lake. The bank of the lake is about twenty feet high, with a sandy shore. The "Rest" is about 150 yards from the lake shore and is grown up with pines, not thickly. Has a fine ravine about fifty feet deep close by. Lake Chemong is on the Trent Valley canal system, about six miles off the line of the canal. Now to follow the water around to the point where the city of Peterborough now is would be about fifty miles, but by the portage from "The Rest" to this point is only six miles, so it is supposed Champlain used this portage, thus saving the fifty miles' water journey.

Champlain's Rest is on the south-east side of Lake Chemong, and is known so from local traditions handed down by Indians and trappers, etc., and also partly



Champlain's Rest.

from the history of Champlain. There is an Indian burying-ground on the opposite side of the lake, and Mr. Telford has picked up pottery and celts in the vicinity. The distance from Champlain's Rest to Buckhorn Lake, which is the mouth of the first water running out of the chain of lakes below Bobcaygeon, and into which Chemong empties, is fifteen miles.

The foregoing is compiled from letters from Mr. J. N. Telford, J.P., Bridgenorth P.O., who formerly lived on a farm in that vicinity. Dates of letters, February 21st, March 2nd and 9th, 1917.

Mr. W. Hickson, of Bobcaygeon, Ont., in letter of February 3rd, 1917, re "Champlain's Rest," says "That the only place he knows of is near Lake Chemong (Mud Lake)," and quotes from Withrow's (large) History of Canada, p. 63, as follows: "Champlain had been promised an escort down the St. Lawrence to

Quebec, but daunted by their defeat, the Hurons refused to keep their engagement. He was therefore compelled to return with his savage allies. They camped for thirty-eight days near Mud Lake (Chemong Lake), waiting for the frost to bridge the rivers and marshes. For four days he was lost in the woods and well-nigh exhausted by hunger, cold and fatigue. For nineteen days he traversed on snowshoes the wintry forest beneath a crushing load through what are now the counties of Hastings, Peterborough and Victoria, and on Christmas Eve the baffled war party reached Cahagua, on the narrows of Lake Couchiching. Champlain remained here four months with his Huron hosts, sharing their councils, their feasts, their hunts, and hearing strange tales of the vast lakes of the west."

The foregoing occurred just after Champlain and the Hurons were defeated by the Iroquois in the Seneca country. Champlain himself was wounded and endeavoured to get the Hurons to rally and attack the Iroquois a second time, but without avail, and, chafing with chagrin and pain, they bore him on a rude litter, never halting till they came to where they camped for thirty-eight days, on Lake Chemong.

I wish to correct the impression given on page 19, Report (Ont. Arch.) 1893, that Champlain had an alternative route through this section, lying north of the Portage Road, namely by using the Talbot River, going up it as far as Raven Lake, then across the height of land to North Bay, Balsam Lake, and so on, as per the Trent Canal engineer's statements the drop from Balsam Lake to Lake Simcoe is 155 feet in seventeen miles. The Talbot is too swift and had too many rapids for canoe ascension. Travellers could make better time by land.

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